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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10016 011006Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------017724 011018Z /11
P R 010830Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9649
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 10016

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, EAID, IS, JO, US
SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM TALKS - NEXT STEPS

REF: AMMAN 8745

1. WHILE I APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR PICKERING'S DESIRE TO MOVE NEGOTIATIONS ALONG ON MAQARIN SO THAT DEADLINES IN OUR OWN BUDGET CYCLE CAN BE MET, I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT THE STEPS PROPOSED IN AMMAN 8745 WILL ACHIEVE THIS END.

2. ALTHOUGH DAYAN HAS NOT BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE PAST MAQARIN NEGOTIATIONS, HE HAS BEEN KEPT INFORMED. EVERY INDICATION WE HAVE IS THAT MOSHE ALON'S ACTIONS HAVE ALL BEEN APPROVED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. HE HAS SAID REPEATEDLY THAT THE GOI APPROVES THE MAQARIN PROJECT IN PRINCIPLE. SHOULD I SEEK A CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM DAYAN, WHO WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE FOLLOW-ON NEGOTIATIONS, WE WOULD RUN THE DANGER OF UNNECESSARILY ALIENATING ALON, WHO WILL BE DEEPLY INVOLVED.

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3. I ALSO HAVE DOUBTS WHETHER IT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE TO TRY TO PRESSURE THE ISRAELIS INTO A PRE-COMMITMENT ON 25 MCM AS A SWEETENER FOR THE JORDANIANS TO UNDERTAKE DIRECT TALKS. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE ISRAELIS ARE NOT THE DEMANDEURS IN THIS SITUATION. SECONDLY, THE ISRAELIS HAVE SAID REPEATEDLY THAT THE 25/40 MCM PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED QUICKLY ONCE DIRECT DISCUSSIONS BEGIN. AS REPORTED IN TEL AVIV 9697, THEY

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ARE THINKING OF ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL WATER ONLY IF A SECOND DAM IS EVENTUALLY CONSTRUCTED.

4. MY SUGGESTION IS TO LET MAQARIN STAY WHERE IT IS FOR THE TIME BEING (I ASSUME THE GOJ HAS BEEN BRIEFED ON THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 22 MEETING), WHILE WE SEE HOW THE MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL SITUATION EVOLVES SUBSEQUENT TO THE CAIRO CONFERENCE. I WOULD SEEM LIKELY THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE IT WILL EITHER BE MUCH EASIER FOR HUSSEIN TO TALK TO THE ISRAELIS OR WELL-NIGH IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DO SO. IF THE CLIMATE IS FAVORABLE, WE COULD THEN TRY OUT THE PROPOSED AGENDA IDEA ON ALON TO SEE WHETHER IT HOLDS ANY INTEREST FOR THE ISRAELIS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, WATER RIGHTS, WATER DIVERSION, MAQARIN DAM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV10016
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770445-0358
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 77 AMMAN 8745
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 23-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 109466
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAQARIN DAM TALKS - NEXT STEPS
TAGS: PBOR, EAID, IS, JO, US
To: STATE AMMAN
Type: TE
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